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From: Chalk, Steven E [Steven_E_Chalk@RL.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2006 10:37 AM
To: HANFORD-INFO@LISTSERV.WA.GOV
Subject: Comment Period on FFTF EA for Proposed Sodium Residuals Reaction/Removal and other Deactivation Work

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This is a message from the U.S. Department of Energy

Second Notice: Upcoming Public Comment Period

EDMC

**Environmental Assessment (EA) for Proposed Sodium Residuals Reaction/Removal
and Other Deactivation Work Activities, Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF) Project, Hanford Site**

Richland, Washington (DOE/EA-1547)

The U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) is preparing a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) EA to evaluate potential environmental impacts of conducting proposed deactivation work activities for the completion of reaction and removal of radioactively-contaminated sodium residuals; removal of associated equipment/components, which would allow removal of the sodium; and removal/disposal/stabilization of miscellaneous hazards remaining in the FFTF. The proposed deactivation work scope would continue to support long-term, low cost surveillance and maintenance of the facility in a safer and stable condition with reduced risk to plant workers, the public, and the environment, prior to final FFTF decommissioning.

In May 1995 a Shutdown EA, "*Environmental Assessment, Shutdown of the Fast Flux Test Facility, Hanford Site, Richland, Washington*" (DOE/EA-0993) was conducted and a Finding of No Significant Impact decision was issued. This 1995 EA evaluated leaving the radioactively-contaminated sodium residuals in the drained FFTF vessels, piping, and filters under an inert gas blanket until removed. The proposed EA will address a different approach to accomplish ongoing deactivation work at FFTF that was not extensively discussed in the 1995 EA.

The "*Environmental Assessment, Sodium Residuals Reaction/Removal and Other Deactivation Work Activities, Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF) Project, Hanford Site, Richland, Washington*" (DOE/EA-1547) originally was expected to go out for public comment last fall. It is now anticipated to go out for a 30-day public comment period in mid- to late-February 2006.

For more information, please contact Douglas H. Chapin, NEPA Document Manager, FFTF Environmental Assessment – Sodium Residuals Reaction/Removal, U.S. Department of Energy, P.O. Box 550, Mailstop A3-04, Richland, Washington 99352; telephone and voice mail: (509) 373-9396; fax: (509)376-0177; and/or electronic mail: Douglas_h_chapin@rl.gov .